

Joint Information Center Fire Update

Dawes County Complex * Thayer/Sioux County Complex

Wednesday, August 2, 2006 - 12:00 P.M. (MT)

Information: Dawes: 308-432-6440, Sioux: 308-668-9424 or 9410

On the Web at: www.inciweb.org

Cooler temperatures, greater humidity, and increased precipitation caused the fire behavior on both fire complexes to moderate Tuesday. Rain was received on both complexes Tuesday. The Sioux Complex fires received up to 0.6 inches and Dawes Complex fires received up to 0.25 inches. Work is beginning on both complexes to rehabilitate fire lines and burned areas. Some firefighters and resources are being reassigned or returning to their home units. All evacuations and road closures have been lifted.

Dawes County Complex

Total Acres: 27,551 (Spotted Trail – 17,935, Roberts Tract – 9,531, Deadhorse – 85)

Containment: 80 percent

Location: South and southwest of Chadron, Neb.

Resources: Eight 20-person crews, 37 engines, four dozers, 11 water tenders

Air support available: Two helicopters

Total personnel: 415 (does not include volunteer firefighter departments also on scene)

Cost to date: \$1.5 million

Spotted Tail and Roberts Tract Fires: Firefighters will be looking for and dousing hotspots 100 feet in from the perimeter in grassy areas and 200 feet in from the perimeter in forested areas. Firefighters have begun rehabilitating dozer and hand lines built during the suppression efforts.

Thayer/Sioux County Complex

Total Acres: 37,900 (Thayer - 29,500 and Rudloff - 8,400)

Containment: 65 percent (Thayer – 50%; Rudloff – 75%)

Location: Three miles northeast of Harrison, Neb.

Resources: Total personnel: 366, which includes two Type I Crews, 29 engines, seven dozers, six graders and 11 water tenders, four helicopters

Cost to Date: \$475,000

Thayer Fire: The main concern for the Thayer Fire is the securing of an area on the east side. On the remainder of the fire, personnel will be securing the perimeter, improving control lines, and extinguishing burning or smoldering trees or stumps in proximity to the fire lines.

Rudloff Fire: Firefighters made major headway in establishing and strengthening control lines and will continue these efforts today.

What about the Smoke?

Residents in Nebraska's panhandle can expect to see some small smoke plumes for some time.

While the fires are almost controlled, and in many areas, there is no heat, there are some heavy down logs and stumps that will continue to smolder for weeks.

Firefighters will continue to search these areas out and douse hot spots.

Public Meeting Tonight in Sioux County

Wed., August 2 at 7 P.M.
Harrison Bible Church

Receive an update on the Sioux County fires and ask questions of agency representatives after the meeting.

Want to Help?

A relief fund has been established to help impacted residents and local fire departments of Dawes and Sioux Counties.

Financial donations may be sent to:

- Any financial institution in Dawes or Sioux County, or
- Dawes-Sioux Fire Fund, PO Box 1125, Chadron, NE 69337